

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 3 through 10, and 12 through 17 are pending, with Claims 1, 6, 10, and 11 being independent. Claims 2 and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 through 8, 10, 12, and 14 through 16 have been amended.

Claims 1 through 17 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 over newly-cited US 6,026,212 (Oguro). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 10 variously recite, *inter alia*, forming a plurality of sync blocks by adding the sync data for the high definition image signal to each of a predetermined amount of the high definition encoded image data... in the high definition image recording mode, and forming a plurality of sync blocks by adding the sync data for the standard definition image signal to each of a predetermined amount of the standard definition encoded image data... in the standard definition recording mode (the sync data for the standard definition image signal having a different sync pattern from the sync data for the high definition image signal).

Claims 6 and 14 variously recites, *inter alia*, an encoded data stream constructed by a plurality of sync blocks each including encoded image data encoded by a first encoding method or a second encoding method different from the first encoded method and sync data having different sync patterns according to the encoding method, with discriminating the encoding method on the basis of the sync pattern of the detected sync data.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that Oguro fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, *inter alia*, in Claims 1, 6, 10, and 14.

Applicant respectfully notes that Oguro discloses, e.g., subcode data format recorded in the main areas of the subcode area (e.g., SP in Fig. 16, and LP in Fig. 17), wherein the subcode detector 30 may sense the absence from main areas of date and/or time data to indicate the presence of SP, or if it senses the presence of date and/or time data, there is an indication that the data had been recorded in LP mode (e.g., col. 12, lines 44 through 58). However, Applicant respectfully submits that neither the foregoing nor the remainder of Oguro provides either a description or a suggestion of at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, *inter alia*, in Claims 1, 6, 10, and 14.

Applicant further respectfully submits that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such features. By means of such features, e.g., Applicant submits that if the sync pattern of the sync data is detected, the encoding method of the video signal can be discriminated without requiring confirming contents of data other than the sync data. Of course, the claims are not limited to the disclosed embodiments.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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